



Caribbean Star

The official Ombudsman newsletter for reservist within Puerto Rico

Volume 1. page 1

January 2004

A note from the CO

Welcome to the New Year and all the challenges and fantastic opportunities that are ahead of us. I would like to outline a few of these for you.

First off, we have just completed a Naval Reserve Readiness Stand-down. Your Unit Commanding Officers have reviewed all the administrative areas within your Units and specific items concerning your readiness to be mobilized. I cannot stress enough the importance of your responsibility to keep yourself and your shipmates in the highest state of Readiness. Communicate often with your Unit leadership concerning any event in life that changes your ability to provide "Support to the Fleet". February Drill weekend is a special occasion for Naval Reserve Center, Roosevelt Roads. Admiral Stewart (REDCOM SE) will be visiting us and will have a chance to meet all of you. I expect we will assembly as a group on Saturday (7 FEB, 2004), so think of some questions you may have for the Admiral. Master Chief Tutt, the REDCOM SE Command Master Chief, will also be in attendance. This is an excellent chance to hear from our leadership and to ask well thought out questions that your Chain of Command may not be able to address. Your questions should regard the global vision of the Naval Reserve, not "why does it take so long for ordered uniform items to get to Puerto Rico?".

The Government Travel Charge Card is for Official use only. It is your obligation to pay off in full any charges you incur while on Official travel (current orders in hand). Failure to adhere to the GTCC rules will have adverse effects on your ability to progress in your Naval Career. Your Commanding Officers will soon become the direct officials responsibility for administering your conduct with the GTCC. If you feel you may not be able to properly use the GTCC, let your Chain of Command know and we will pursue alternate methods for you to meet your Official Travel requirements.

As a final note, keep in mind Admiral Cotton's and our vision for the Naval Reserve;

"Support to the fleet....

Ready and fully integrated"

LCDR Peter H. Sorensen
Commanding Officer

Naval Reserve Center, Roosevelt Roads

Important Phone numbers

Ombudsman, Evelyn Vega

Thursday to Sunday 1400 to 1800

787-438-4678

Emergencies only

787-438-4678 or 787-655-0371 anytin

Duty Officer 787-439-3921

CO cell 787-501-2798



Naval Station

Roosevelt Roads
Puerto Rico



Web sites of interest

<http://reserves.navy.mil>

<http://lifelines.navy.mil>

<http://www.navstarr.navy.mil/>

<http://www.buchanan.army.mil>



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Roosevelt Roads base closure frequently asked questions

Why is the base closing?

See Roosevelt Roads web site at <http://www.navstarr.navy.mil/Base%20Closure/index.htm>
the **Public Law 108-87** page.

Will utilities be available for those who remain in housing after March 31?

Electric and potable water will be unaffected. No date has been set for discontinuing Americable services.

When will the Navy Federal Credit Union close?

No date has been determined.

Will the base fitness facilities be available for use?

Oftsie Gym is closed. Bundy and Camp Moscrip will Remain open.

What will happen to Chicken Jose's?

Chicken Jose's and Bamboo Creek bar has relocated to Crossroads. Essentially the same services will be provided.

Will the NEX and Mini-Mart facilities remain open until closure?

The NEX will close and the Mini-Mart will change to a Ship's Store on Jan. 31. Only essential items will be sold.

What will happen to the port?

There will be an operational closure of port on Jan. 31.

How long will Gate 3 remain open?

Gate 3 is scheduled to close on March 31.

How long will veterinary services be offered?

Veterinary services will be discontinued near the end of March. Services will be available at Fort Buchanan. The Buchanan veterinarian will make weekly trips to Roosevelt, but commissary inspections and military working dogs will take priority.

What will happen to NSRR?

NSRR will become Naval Activity Puerto Rico. By the end of June, all orders to NAPR will be unaccompanied. After June, remaining service members will have to live in the barracks or off base.

What will happen to the commissary?

The commissary will close on March 31.

What will happen to the Navy Lodge?

The Navy Lodge will close on July 31.



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Questions continued...

Where can I find a list of TRICARE approved healthcare providers in Puerto Rico?

You can find a list of healthcare providers at the TRICARE Service Center or on the web at www.tricare.osd.mil or <http://tricare15.army.mil>.

What if I am a family member of an activated reservist, or family member of an active duty member who currently has orders to a location other than Puerto Rico, and I am enrolled into the Naval Hospital. What should I do for my health care needs?

If you choose, you may continue use of available Naval Hospital services until March 15. After that date you will have to choose a TRICARE network approved Primary Care provider. This will be the only one who can authorize non-emergency specialty care for you. The Naval Hospital is currently working on several issues involving your enrollment and benefits at any military treatment facility or TRICARE network in Puerto Rico. Several briefs Naval Hospital are being planned for January 2004. The briefs will explain in more detail these issues and how they will affect your healthcare situation. You should soon receive notification by mail or phone about the date and time of the brief. If you are not notified by mail before Jan. 25, please

What is an Ombudsman? contact the Naval Hospital TRICARE Service Center at 865-5913.



I am not a crutch
But I can support you
I am not a counselor
But I know one
I am not a taxi driver
But I can steer you in the right direction
I am not a rescuer
But I can help save lives
I am not a baby sitter
But I can refer you to a caregiver
I am not a gossip
But I am a great listener
I am not an enabler
But I can provide tools to empower you
I am not a master of anything
But I know many experts who understand your need
I am not a Recreation or Health Specialist
But I am concerned about your Morale, Welfare & Health
I am not a busybody as I've been called
But I am an Official Command Representative
I am a Navy Family Ombudsman
And I am of service to You
The Navy Family

The Role of the Command Ombudsman

The Navy Family Ombudsman is vital to the welfare of the command's families, and in this unique role, as an officially appointed volunteer, the duties are wide-ranging. The Ombudsman has been trained to know when to provide information, when to be a referral source and how to be